As provided under Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, the State and UT Governments have to identify BPL families as per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission. For taking up next round of BPL census in rural and urban areas, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation have to issue guidelines.

Loss of wheat due to shortage of storage facility

193. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of wheat, kept in the open due to inadequate storage facilities, has been damaged;

(b) if so, the details of the foodgrains got damaged and declared unfit even for animal consumption in different regions; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. No foodgrains have been damaged due to lack of proper storage facilities. However, small quantities of foodgrains may get damaged due to various reasons, such as insect/fungus infestation, rodents, cyclones, floods and other natural calamities.

(b) The details of the foodgrains damaged and declared unfit in different regions during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve storage infrastructure in the country:-

1. FCI has prepared a shelf of projects to establish new godowns during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The estimated cost of construction of these godowns is Rs. 164 crores. Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 125 crores for FCI and Rs. 24 crores for State Governments of North Eastern region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.

2. In July, 2008, the Government formulated a "Scheme for Construction of Godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Enterpreneurs". Under this scheme, the FCI is to provide a guarantee for 5 years for hiring of godowns through Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations. FCI has approved creation of 126.35 lakh tonnes of storage capacity under this scheme.

3. Under the Scheme for Construction of Godowns for FCI and within the overall capacity of 126.35 lakh tonnes approved by FCI, the Government has allowed CWC/SWCs to build godowns on their own land for which FCI would provide 4 years guarantee for the storage charges.

Statement

The details of the foodgrains damaged and declared unfit even for animal consumption in different regions.

(Fig. in MTs)

Sl.No.	Regions	As on 01.04.07	As on 01.04.08	As on 01.04.09
1.	Bihar	74	33	33
2.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
3.	Orissa	0	0	0
4.	West Bengal	20	11	10
5.	Assam	337	440	483
6.	NEF	267	115	224
7.	N&M	88	91	97
8.	Delhi	0	0	0
9.	Haryana	0	0	4
10.	H.P.	0	0	0
11.	J&K	0	0	0
12.	Punjab	160	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	5	0	0
14.	UP	1	8	3
15.	Uttaranchal	0	0	4
16.	AP	128	120	1
17.	Kerala	4	4	9
18.	Karnataka	174	100	41
19.	TN	3	0	0
20.	Gujarat	18	104	117
21.	Maharashtra	22	15	50
22.	MP	64	48	62
23.	Chhattisgarh	68	161	19
	TOTAL :	1433	1250	1157

Shortage of sugar

194. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his statements on shortage of sugar on the eve of festival season created panic and encouraged hoarding, leading to steep rise of sugar price in the market;